

APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

TITLE: TRIAZINE COMPOUNDS

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TRIAZINE COMPOUNDS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

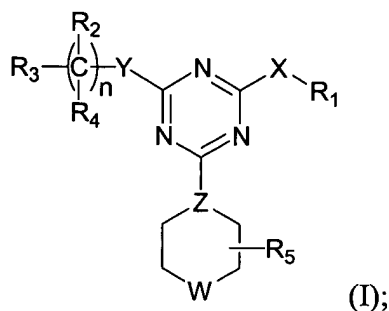
This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Application No. 09/594,362, filed on June 15, 2000, which is incorporated in its entirety herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

5 Interleukin-12 (IL-12) is a heterodimeric cytokine (p70) composed of two subunits (p35 and p40), and plays key roles in immune responses by bridging innate resistance and antigen-specific adaptive immunity. Trinchieri (1993) *Immunol Today* 14: 335. For example, it promotes type 1 T helper cell (Th1) responses and, hence, cell-mediated immunity. Chan *et al.* (1991) *J Exp Med* 173: 869; Seder *et al.* (1993) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 90: 10188; Manetti *et al.* (1993) *J Exp Med* 177: 1199; and Hsieh *et al.* (1993) *Science* 260: 547. Overproduction of
10 IL-12 causes excessive Th1 responses, and may result in inflammatory disorders, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, Crohn's disease, or sepsis. See, for example, Gately *et al.* (1998) *Annu Rev Immunol.* 16: 495; and Abbas *et al.* (1996) *Nature* 383: 787. Thus, inhibiting IL-12 overproduction is an approach to treat the just-mentioned diseases. Trembleau *et al.* (1995) *Immunol. Today* 16: 383; and Adorini *et al.* (1997) *Chem. Immunol.* 68: 175. For example, overproduction of IL-12 and the resultant excessive Th1 type responses can be suppressed by modulating IL-12 production. A compound that down-regulates IL-12 production can be used for treating inflammatory diseases. Ma *et al.* (1998) *Eur Cytokine Netw* 9: 54.

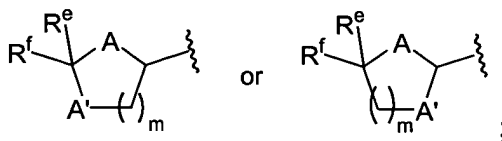
SUMMARY

20 This invention is based on the identification of new compounds from a library of 80,000 compounds, which were screened for their abilities to inhibit IL-12 overproduction. In one aspect, this invention features triazine compounds of formula (I)



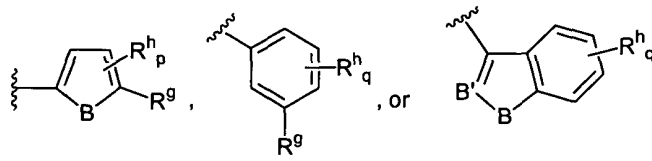
wherein R_1 is $\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{R}^a)(\text{R}^b)$ [referred to hereinafter as $\text{NC}(\text{R}^a\text{R}^b)$], aryl, or heteroaryl; each of R_2 , R_4 , and R_5 , independently, is R^c , halogen, nitro, nitroso, cyano, azide, isothionitro, SR^c , or OR^c ; R_3 is R^c , alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, OR^c , $\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{R}^c$, SO_2R^c , $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{R}^c$, $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$, SR^c , NR^cR^d , NR^cCOR^d , $\text{NR}^c\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^d$, $\text{NR}^c\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$, $\text{NR}^c\text{SO}_2\text{R}^d$, COR^c , $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^c$, or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$; n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7; X is O, S, $\text{S}(\text{O})$, $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)$, or NR^c ; Y is a covalent bond, CH_2 , $\text{C}(\text{O})$, $\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{R}^c$, $\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{OR}^c$, $\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{SR}^c$, O, S, $\text{S}(\text{O})$, or $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)$; Z is N; and W is O, S, $\text{S}(\text{O})$, $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)$, NR^c , or $\text{NC}(\text{O})\text{R}^c$; in which each of R^a and R^b , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; and each of R^c and R^d , independently, is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl. Note that the left atom shown in any substituted group described above is closest to the triazine ring. Also note that when n is 2 or greater, the just-described triazine compound may have two or more different $\text{C}(\text{R}^2\text{R}^4)$ moieties. The same rule applies to other similar situations.

Referring to formula (I), a subset of the triazine compounds of this invention is featured by that R^1 is $\text{NC}(\text{R}^a\text{R}^b)$. In these compounds, W can be O; R_5 can be H or alkyl; X can be NR^c ; R^c can be H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl; Y can be O or CH_2 , and n can be 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4. In some embodiments, R_3 is aryl, heteroaryl (e.g., pyridinyl), OR^c , SR^c , $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^c$, or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$. In other embodiments, R_3 is



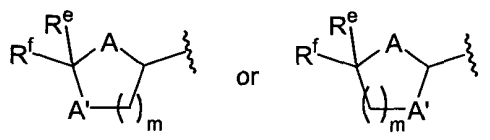
in which each of A and A' , independently, is O, S, or NH; each of R^e and R^f , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and m is 1 or 2.

In this subset of triazine compounds, R^a or R^b , preferably, is



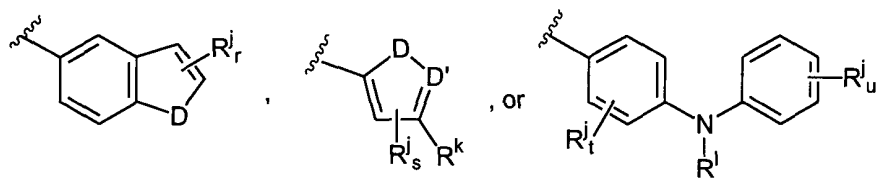
in which B is NR^i , O, or S; B' is N or CR^i ; R^g is H, alkyl, or alkoxy; R^h is halogen, CN, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, or heteroaryloxy; R^i is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; p is 0, 1, or 2; and q is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4. Preferably, B is NR^i ; B' is CH; R^g is H, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, or ethoxy; R^h is F, Cl, CN, methoxy, methyl, or ethoxy; R^i is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl; and q is 0, 1, or 2.

Another subset of the triazine compounds of this invention is featured by that R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl. In these compounds, W can be O; R_5 can be H or alkyl; X can be NR^c ; R^c can be H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl; Y can be O or CH_2 , and n can be 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4. In some embodiments, R_3 is aryl, heteroaryl (e.g., pyridinyl), OR^c , SR^c , C(O)OR^c , or $\text{C(O)NR}^c\text{R}^d$. In other embodiments, R_3 is

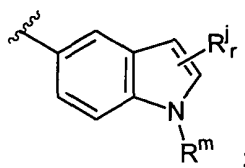


in which each of A and A', independently, is O, S, or NH; each of R^e and R^f , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and m is 1 or 2.

In this second subset of triazine compounds, R_1 , preferably, is



in which D is O, S, or NR^m ; D' is N or CR^m ; R^j is halogen, CN, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, or heteroaryloxy; R^k is aryl or heteroaryl; R^l is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; R^m is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; r is 0, 1, or 2; s is 0 or 1; t is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4; and u is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. Preferably, R_1 is

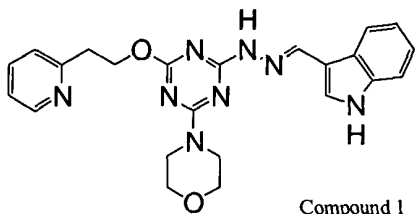


and R^j is methyl, ethyl, propyl, or benzyl; and r can be 1 or 2.

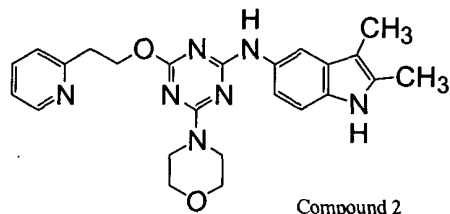
In another aspect, this invention also features triazine compounds of formula (I), wherein R_1 is $NC(R^aR^b)$, aryl, or heteroaryl; each of R_2 , R_4 , and R_5 , independently, is R^c , halogen, nitro, nitroso, cyano, azide, isothionitro, SR^c , or OR^c ; R_3 is R^c , alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, OR^c , $OC(O)R^c$, SO_2R^c , $S(O)R^c$, $S(O_2)NR^cR^d$, SR^c , NR^cR^d , NR^cCOR^d , $NR^cC(O)OR^d$, $NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$, $NR^cSO_2R^d$, COR^c , $C(O)OR^c$, or $C(O)NR^cR^d$; n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7; X is O, S, $S(O)$, $S(O_2)$, or NR^c ; Y is a covalent bond, CH_2 , $C(O)$, $C=N-R^c$, $C=N-OR^c$, $C=N-SR^c$, O, S, $S(O)$, $S(O_2)$, or NR^c ; Z is CH ; and W is O, S, $S(O)$, $S(O_2)$, NR^c , or $NC(O)R^c$; in which each of R^a and R^b , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; and each of R^c and R^d , independently, is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl. A subset of the triazine compounds is featured by that R^1 is $NC(R^aR^b)$; and another subset is featured by that R^1 is aryl or heteroaryl.

Alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl (e.g., pyridinyl), cyclyl, heterocyclyl mentioned herein include both substituted and unsubstituted moieties. The term "substituted" refers to one or more substituents (which may be the same or different), each replacing a hydrogen atom. Examples of substituents include, but are not limited to, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, dialkylamino, diarylamino, cyano, nitro, mercapto, carbonyl, carbamido, carbamyl, carboxyl, thioureido, thiocyanato, sulfoamido, $C_1\sim C_6$ alkyl, $C_1\sim C_6$ alkenyl, $C_1\sim C_6$ alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl cyclyl, and heterocyclyl are optionally substituted with $C_1\sim C_6$ alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, hydroxyl, amino, mercapto, cyano, or nitro. The term "aryl" refers to a hydrocarbon ring system having at least one aromatic ring. Examples of aryl moieties include, but are not limited to, phenyl, naphthyl, and pyrenyl. The term "heteroaryl" refers to a hydrocarbon ring system having at least one aromatic ring which contains at least one heteroatom such as O, N, or S. Examples of heteroaryl moieties include, but are not limited to, furyl, fluorenyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, quinazolinyl, and indolyl.

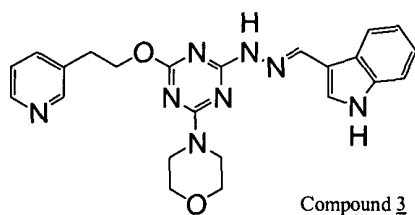
Set forth below are exemplary compounds (Compounds 1-12) of this invention:



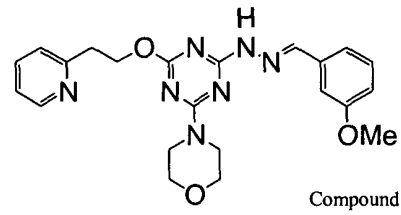
Compound 1



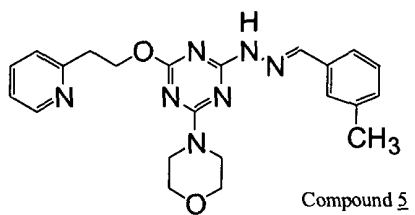
Compound 2



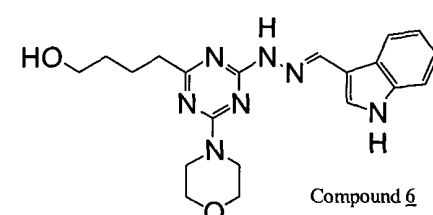
Compound 3



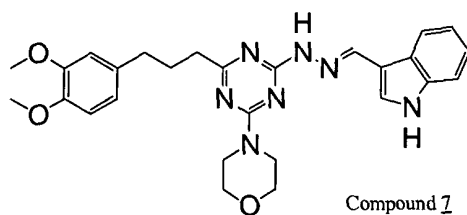
Compound 4



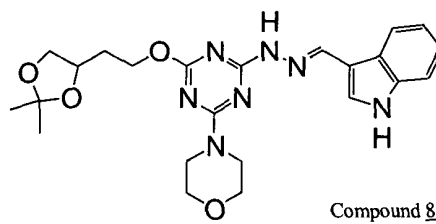
Compound 5



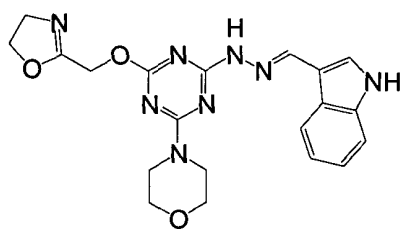
Compound 6



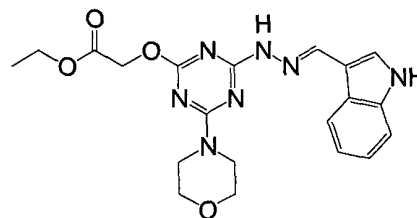
Compound 7



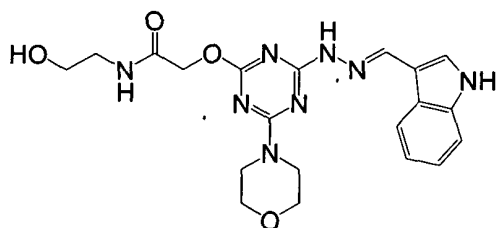
Compound 8



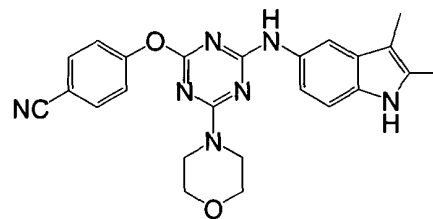
Compound 9



Compound 10



Compound 11



Compound 12

In still another aspect, this invention features a pharmaceutical composition that contains a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective amount of at least one of the above-described triazine compounds.

In further another aspect, the present invention features a method for treating an IL-12 overproduction-related disorder (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis, sepsis, Crohn's disease, multiple Sclerosis, psoriasis, or insulin-dependent diabetes). The method includes administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a triazine compound of formula (I), wherein R_1 is $NC(R^aR^b)$, aryl, or heteroaryl; each of R_2 , R_4 , and R_5 , independently, is R^c , halogen, nitro, nitroso, cyano, azide, isothionitro, SR^c , or OR^c ; R_3 is R^c , alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, OR^c , $OC(O)R^c$, SO_2R^c , $S(O)R^c$, $S(O_2)NR^cR^d$, SR^c , NR^cR^d , NR^cCOR^d , $NR^cC(O)OR^d$, $NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$, $NR^cSO_2R^d$, COR^c , $C(O)OR^c$, or $C(O)NR^cR^d$; n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7; X is O, S, $S(O)$, $S(O_2)$, or NR^c ; Y is a covalent bond, CH_2 , $C(O)$, $C=N-R^c$, $C=N-OR^c$, $C=N-SR^c$, O, S, $S(O)$, $S(O_2)$, or NR^c ; Z is N or CH; and W is O, S, $S(O)$, $S(O_2)$, NR^c , or $NC(O)R^c$; in which each of R^a and R^b , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; and each of R^c and R^d , independently, is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl.

The triazine compounds described above include the compounds themselves, as well as their salts and their prodrugs, if applicable. The salts, for example, can be formed between a positively charged substituent (e.g., amino) on a compound and an anion. Suitable anions include, but are not limited to, chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate, nitrate, phosphate, citrate, methanesulfonate, trifluoroacetate, and acetate. Likewise, a negatively charged substituent (e.g., carboxylate) on a compound can form a salt with a cation. Suitable cations include, but are not limited to, sodium ion, potassium ion, magnesium ion, calcium ion, and an ammonium cation such as tetramethylammonium ion. Examples of prodrugs include esters and other pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives, which, upon administration to a subject, are capable of providing the triazine compounds described above.

In addition, some of the just-described triazine compounds have one or more double bonds, or one or more asymmetric centers. Such compounds can occur as racemates, racemic mixtures, single enantiomers, individual diastereomers, diastereomeric mixtures, and cis- or trans- or *E*- or *Z*- double bond isomeric forms.

Also within the scope of this invention are a composition containing one or more of the compounds described above for use in treating an IL-12 overproduction-related disorder, and the use of such a composition for the manufacture of a medicament for the just-described use.

Other features or advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following
5 detailed description of several embodiments, and also from the appending claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The compounds described above can be prepared by methods well known in the art, as well as by the synthetic routes disclosed herein. For example, a triazine compound of this invention (e.g., Compound 1) can be prepared in a stepwise manner by using cyanuric chloride
10 as a starting material and replacing its three chloro groups with various substitutes by the methods described above. Due to the symmetry of cyanuric chloride, the order of displacement is not of particular importance. For example, a chloro group of cyanuric chloride can be substituted with a nucleophile $X-R_1-H$, wherein X is O or S, thus forming an ether linkage. In another example, a compound of formula (I), wherein Y is CH_2 (e.g., Compound 7), can be
15 prepared by reacting the cyanuric chloride with a Grignard reagent, an organotin reagent, an organoboric acid, an organocopper reagent or an organozinc reagent in the presence of an organopalladium compound as a catalyst. If preferred, other types of linkages can be prepared by similar nucleophilic reactions. Sensitive moieties on the triazinyl intermediates and on the nucleophiles can be protected prior to coupling. For suitable protecting groups, see, e.g., Greene
20 (1981) *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. A triazine compound thus synthesized can be further purified by flash column chromatography, high performance liquid chromatography, or crystallization.

Also within the scope of this invention is a pharmaceutical composition that contains an effective amount of at least one triazine compound of this invention and a pharmaceutically
25 acceptable carrier. Further, the present invention covers a method of administering an effective amount of one or more triazine compounds described in the "Summary" section to a subject in need of treatment of IL-12 overproduction related diseases (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis, sepsis, or Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, or insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus). "An effective amount" refers to the amount of the compound which is required to confer a therapeutic
30 effect on the treated subject. The interrelationship of dosages for animals and humans (based on milligrams per meter squared of body surface) is described in Freireich *et al.*, (1966) *Cancer*

Chemother Rep 50: 219. Body surface area may be approximately determined from height and weight of the patient. See, e.g., Scientific Tables, Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Ardley, N.Y., 1970, 537. An effective amount of the compound of this invention can range from about 0.001 mg/Kg to about 1000 mg/Kg. Effective doses will also vary, as recognized by those skilled in the art, depending on the diseases treated, route of administration, excipient usage, and the possibility of co-usage with other therapeutic treatments such as use of other agents.

To practice the method of the present invention, a triazine compound, as a component of a pharmaceutical composition, can be administered orally, parenterally, by inhalation spray, topically, rectally, nasally, buccally, vaginally or via an implanted reservoir. The term “parenteral” as used herein includes subcutaneous, intracutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraarticular, intraarterial, intrasynovial, intrasternal, intrathecal, intralesional and intracranial injection or infusion techniques.

A sterile injectable composition, for example, a sterile injectable aqueous or oleaginous suspension, can be formulated according to techniques known in the art using suitable dispersing or wetting agents (such as, for example, Tween 80) and suspending agents. The sterile injectable preparation can also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parenterally acceptable diluent or solvent, for example, as a solution in 1,3-butanediol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that can be employed are mannitol, water, Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium (e.g., synthetic mono- or diglycerides). Fatty acids, such as oleic acid and its glyceride derivatives are useful in the preparation of injectables, as are natural pharmaceutically-acceptable oils, such as olive oil or castor oil, especially in their polyoxyethylated versions. These oil solutions or suspensions can also contain a long-chain alcohol diluent or dispersant, or carboxymethyl cellulose or similar dispersing agents. Other commonly used surfactants such as Tweens or Spans or other similar emulsifying agents or bioavailability enhancers which are commonly used in the manufacture of pharmaceutically acceptable solid, liquid, or other dosage forms can also be used for the purposes of formulation. A composition for oral administration can be any orally acceptable dosage form including, but not limited to, capsules, tablets, emulsions and aqueous suspensions, dispersions and solutions. In the case of tablets for oral use, carriers which are commonly used include lactose and corn starch. Lubricating agents, such as magnesium stearate, are also typically added. For oral

administration in a capsule form, useful diluents include lactose and dried corn starch. When aqueous suspensions or emulsions are administered orally, the active ingredient can be suspended or dissolved in an oily phase combined with emulsifying or suspending agents. If desired, certain sweetening, flavoring, or coloring agents can be added. A nasal aerosol or inhalation composition can be prepared according to techniques well-known in the art of pharmaceutical formulation and can be prepared as solutions in saline, employing benzyl alcohol or other suitable preservatives, absorption promoters to enhance bioavailability, fluorocarbons, and/or other solubilizing or dispersing agents known in the art. A triazine compound can also be administered in the form of suppositories for rectal administration.

The carrier in the pharmaceutical composition must be “acceptable” in the sense of being compatible with the active ingredient of the formulation (and preferably, capable of stabilizing it) and not deleterious to the subject to be treated. For example, solubilizing agents such as cyclodextrins, which form specific, more soluble complexes with the compounds of this invention, or one or more solubilizing agents, can be utilized as pharmaceutical excipients for delivery of a triazine compound. Examples of other carriers include colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate, cellulose, sodium lauryl sulfate, and D&C Yellow # 10.

The biological activities of a triazine compound can be evaluated by a number of cell-based assays. One of such assays can be conducted using cells from human peripheral blood cells (PBMC) or human monocytic cell line (THP-1). The cells are stimulated with a combination of human interferon- γ and lipopolysaccharide or a combination of IFN γ and *Staphylococcus aureus* Cowan I in the presence of a test compound. The level of inhibition of IL-12 production can be measured by determining the amount of p70 by using a sandwich ELISA assay with anti-human IL-12 antibodies. IC₅₀ of the test compound can then be determined. Specifically, PBMC or THP-1 cells are incubated with the test compound. Cell viability was assessed using the bioreduction of MTS [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium] (Promega, Madison, WI).

A triazine compound can also be evaluated by animal studies. For example, one of such studies involves the ability of a test compound to treat adjuvant arthritis (i.e., a IL-12 overproduction related disorder) in rats.

Without further elaboration, it is believed that the above description has adequately enabled the present invention. The following specific embodiments are, therefore, to be

construed as merely illustrative, and not limitative of the remainder of the disclosure in any way whatsoever. All of the publications cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

5 Example 1. Preparation of Compound 1: N-(1H-indol-3-ylmethylene)-N'-[4-morpholin-4-yl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl]-hydrazine

Cyanuric chloride (13.66 g, 74 mmol) was dissolved in methylene chloride (100 mL) at -78°C, followed by the addition of diisopropylethylamine (12.9 mL, 74 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 minutes. Morpholine (6.46 mL, 74 mmol) was added dropwise into the
10 reaction mixture in 10 min. The resulting white precipitate was filtered, washed with water, and dried to afford the desired intermediate in quantitative yield (17 g, 100%).

2-(2-Hydroxyethyl)pyridine (2 g, 16.2 mmol) was dissolved in THF (20 mL) at 0°C. 6.5 mL of 2.5 M n-butyl lithium (16.2 mmol) was added into the pyridine solution dropwise in 5 min. The resulting solution was then added dropwise via cannula to a triazine dichloride solution
15 (3.8 g, 16.2 mmol, in THF) at -78°C. The reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature for overnight to yield the triazine monochloride intermediate (2.8 g, 54%) as a white powder. Hydrazine (0.5 mL, 15.5 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL ethanol at room temperature. The triazine monochloride intermediate (1 g, 3.11 mmol) was added to a solution of ethanol (20 mL) and heated to 60°C before adding into the hydrazine solution. After stirring for 30 min, white
20 crystals precipitated, which were then filtered, washed with water and air dried to yield the triazine hydrazine intermediate (781 mg, 78%) as a white powder.

Indole-3-aldehyde (1.05 g, 7.25 mmol) and the triazine hydrazine intermediate (2.3 g, 7.25 mmol) were added to 30 mL of methanol at room temperature. 5 mL of acetic acid was added to the reaction mixture and was refluxed for 5 min. Upon cooling, a white precipitate was
25 formed, which was filtered and washed with water to yield Compound 1 as a white powder (1.7 g, 52%).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ (ppm): 3.28 (t, J = 6.9, 2H); 3.7 (broad s, 4H); 3.86 (broad s, 4H); 4.73 (broad t, 2H); 7.14-7.24 (m, 2H); 7.27-7.30 (m, 3H); 7.37 (d, J = 8.1, 1H); 7.45 (d, J = 2.4, 1H); 7.59 (t, J = 7.5, 1H); 8.14 (s, 1H); 8.42 (d, J = 7.8, 1H); 8.49 (s, 1H); and 8.56 (d, J = 8.5, 1H).
30

MS (ESI): m/z 445.2 (M+H).

Example 2. Preparation of Compound 2: 2,3-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-5-yl)-[4-morpholin-4-yl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl]-amine

To a solution of cyanuric chloride (0.922 g, 5.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) in 15 mL CH₂Cl₂ at 0 °C was added slowly DIPEA (1.422 g, 11.00 mmol, 2.20 equiv.) during a period of 10 minutes. Ice bath was removed, and 2-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyridine (0.677 g, 5.50 mmol, 1.10 equiv.) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes. 5-Amino-2,3-dimethylindole (0.641 g, 4.00 mmol, 0.80 equiv.) was then added, and stirred for 4 hours at room temperature. A light brown solid precipitated out after 10 mL of water was added to the reaction mixture and stirred for about 10 minutes. The light brown solid was collected by filtration, washed with 2 x 10 mL water, 5 mL EtOAc and dried (1.50 g, 3.80 mmol, 95%). This solid was then added to a solution of morpholine (0.827 g, 9.5 mmol, 2.50 equiv.) in 30 mL THF, and stirred at 60 °C for 4 hours. Usual workup and flash chromatography purification gave Compound 2 as an off-white solid (1.30 g, 2.92 mmol, 77%).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆), δ ppm: 10.50 (s, 1H); 9.29 (br s, 1H); 8.51 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H); 7.70-7.79 (m, 2H); 7.22-7.34 (m, 2H); 7.10 (s, 2H); 4.63 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H); 3.71 (br s, 4H); 3.63 (br s, 4H); 3.16 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H); 2.78 (s, 3H), 2.07 (br s, 3H); MS (ESI): *m/z* 446.2 (M+H)⁺.

Example 3. Preparation of Compound 3: N-(1*H*-indol-3-ylmethylene)-N'-[4-morpholin-4-yl-6-(2-pyridin-3-yl-ethoxy)-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl]-hydrazine

Compound 3 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃), δ ppm: 9.10 (br s, 1H); 8.55 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H); 8.47-8.49 (m, 2H); 8.34-8.41 (m, 1H); 8.07 (s, 1H); 7.60 (dt, *J* = 1.8 Hz, .7.5Hz, 1H); 7.34-7.39 (m, 2H); 7.14-7.25 (m, 3H); 4.58 (br s, 2H); 3.86 (br s, 4H); 3.75 (br s, 4H); 3.09 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H); MS (ESI): *m/z* 445.1 (M+H)⁺.

Example 4. Preparation of Compound 4: N-(3-Methoxy-benzylidene)-N'-[4-morpholin-4-yl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl]-hydrazine

Compound 4 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆), δ ppm: 11.19 (s, 1H); 8.52 (dd, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H); 8.07 (s, 1H); 7.73 (m, 1H); 7.19-7.36 (m, 4H); 6.95 (dd, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 1H); 4.64 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H); 3.64-3.78 (m, 11H); 3.17 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H); MS (ESI): *m/z* 436.2 (M+H)⁺.

5 Example 5. Preparation of Compound 5: N-(3-methyl-benzylidene)-N'-[4-morpholin-4-yl-6-(2-pyridin-2-yl-ethoxy)-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl]-hydrazine

Compound 5 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1.

10 ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆), δ ppm: 11.14 (s, 1H); 8.52 (dd, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1H); 8.07 (s, 1H); 7.73 (m, 1H); 7.17-7.45 (m, 6H); 4.64 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H); 3.63-3.73 (m, 8H); 3.17 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H); 2.33 (s, 3H); MS (ESI): *m/z* 420.2 (M+H)⁺.

Example 6. Preparation of Compound 6: 4-{4-[N'-(1H-indol-3-ylmethylene)-hydrazino]-6-morpholin-4-yl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl}-butan-1-ol

Compound 6 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 7.

15 ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃ + DMSO-d₆, 8:1), δ ppm: 10.16 (br s, 1H); 9.17 (br s, 1H); 8.37-8.47 (m, 1H); 8.21 (s, 1H); 7.36-7.47 (m, 3H); 7.17-7.26 (m, 2H); 3.93 (br s, 4H); 3.77 (br s, 4H); 3.65 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2H); 2.62 (br s, 2H); 1.84-1.92 (m, 2H); 1.62-1.71 (m, 2H); MS (ESI): *m/z* 396.2 (M+H)⁺.

20 Example 7. Preparation of Compound 7: N-{4-[3-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-propyl]-6-morpholin-4-yl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl}-N'-[1-(1H-indol-3-yl)-meth-(E)-ylidene]-hydrazine

To a solution of 3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-propyl iodide (1.224 g, 4.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) in 20 mL dry THF was added highly active zinc (suspension in THF, Rieke metal from Aldrich, 5.2 mL 0.05g/mL, 4.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv.). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. 2,4-dichloro-6-morpholin-4-yl-1,3,5-triazine (0.936 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) and *trans*-benzyl-(chloro)-bis-(triphenylphosphine)palladium(II) (0.03 g, 0.04 mmol, 0.01 equiv.) were added, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 hours. Usual workup and flash chromatography purification gave 4-chloro-2-[3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)propyl]-6-morpholin-4-yl-1,3,5-triazine as a light yellow solid which was treated with hydrazine following the typical procedure to yield {4-[3-(3,4-Dimethoxy-phenyl)-

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propyl]-6-morpholin-4-yl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl}-hydrazine as a white solid (0.85 g, 2.27 mmol, 57 %). MS (ESI): m/z 375.2 ($M+H$)⁺.

A mixture of {4-[3-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-propyl]-6-morpholin-4-yl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl}-hydrazine (0.75 g, 2.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), indole-3-carboxaldehyde (0.29 g, 2.00 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), and AcOH (80 mg, cat.) in 15 mL MeOH was stirred at 75 °C for 4 hours. Solvent was removed and the residue was subjected to flash chromatography purification and crystallization in MeOH to yield Compound 7 as an off-white solid (0.72 g, 1.44 mmol, 72 %).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃), δ ppm: 8.57 (br s, 1H); 8.45 (br s, 1H); 8.29-8.32 (m, 1H); 8.00 (s, 1H); 7.39-7.43 (m, 2H); 7.23-7.34 (m, 2H); 6.74-6.80 (m, 3H); 6.30 (s, 1H); 3.86 (s, 3H); 3.85 (s, 3H); 3.78-3.84 (m, 4H); 3.67-3.70 (m, 4H); 2.63-2.71 (m, 4H), 2.03-2.13 (m, 2H); MS (ESI): m/z 502.2 ($M+H$)⁺.

Example 8. Preparation of Compound 8: N-{4-[2-(2,2-Dimethyl-[1,3]dioxolan-4-yl)-ethoxy]-6-morpholin-4-yl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl}-N'-(1H-indol-3-ylmethylene)-hydrazine

Compound 8 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃Cl) δ (ppm): 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.42 (d, $J=8.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.44 (d, $J=3.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H, $J=7.2$ Hz), 7.20-7.26 (m, 2H), 4.55 (br., 2H), 4.28(d, $J=7.4$ Hz, 1H) 3.84 (m, 4H), 3.71 (m, 4H), 3.60 (t, $J=7.4$ Hz, 2H), 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.35 (s, 3H). MS (ESI): m/z 468.3 ($M+H$)⁺.

Example 9. Preparation of Compound 9: N-[4-(4,5-dihydro-oxazol-2-ylmethoxy)-6-morpholin-4-yl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl]-N'-(1H-indol-3-ylmethylene)-hydrazine

Compound 9 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm): 11.40 (s, 1H), 10.91 (s, 1H), 8.32-8.28 (m, 2H), 7.68 (bs, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.80-4.66 (m, 4H), 3.75-3.55 (m, 8H), 3.15 (s, 2H); MS (ESI): m/z 423.1.

Example 10. Preparation of Compound 10: {4-[N'-(1H-indol-3-ylmethylene)-hydrazino]-6-morpholin-4-yl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yloxy}-acetic acid ethyl ester

Compound 10 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm): 8.62-8.60 (m, 1H), 8.42(d, 1H, *J*=9.0 Hz), 8.09 (s, 1H), 7.45 (bs, 1H), 7.39-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.28-7.20 (m, 3H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.27-4.19 (m, 2H), 3.80-3.65 (m, 8H), 1.25 (t, 3H, *J*=7.2 Hz); MS (ESI): *m/z* 426.1.

5 Example 11. Preparation of Compound 11: N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-{4-[N'-(1H-indol-3-ylmethylene)-hydrazino]-6-morpholin-4-yl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yloxy}-acetamide

Compound 11 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1.

¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm): 11.40 (s, 1H), 10.92 (s, 1H), 8.32-8.28 (m, 2H), 8.00-7.93 (m, 1H), 7.69 (bs, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.21-7.05 (m, 2H), 4.75-4.60 (m, 4H), 3.75-3.55 (m, 8H), 3.20-3.10 (m, 2H); MS (ESI): *m/z* 441.1.

10 Example 12. Preparation of Compound 12: 4-[4-(2,3-Dimethyl-1H-indol-5-ylamino)-6-morpholin-4-yl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yloxy]-benzonitrile

Compound 11 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 2.

15 ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆), δ (ppm): 1.93 (s, 1H), 2.08 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 3.74-3.27 (m, 8H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J*=8.7 Hz), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.91 (d, *J*=8.7 Hz), 9.46 (s, 1H), 10.51 (s, 1H). MS (ESI): *m/z* 441.2 (M+H)⁺.

Example 13. In vitro assays

20 *Reagents.* *Staphylococcus aureus* Cowan I (SAC) was obtained from Calbiochem (La Jolla, CA), and lipopolysaccharide (LPS, *Serratia marscecens*) was obtained from Sigma (St. Louis, MO). Human and mouse recombinant IFN γ were purchased from Boehringer Mannheim (Mannheim, Germany) and Pharmingen (San Diego, CA), respectively.

25 *Human In Vitro Assay.* Human PBMC were isolated by centrifugation using Ficoll-Paque (Pharmacia Biotech, Uppsala, Sweden) and prepared in RPMI medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (FCS), 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 μ g/mL streptomycin. PBMC were plated in wells of a 96-well plate at a concentration of 5 x 10⁵ cells/well, and primed by adding IFN γ (30 U/mL) for 22 h and stimulated by adding LPS (1 μ g/mL), or by adding IFN γ (100 U/mL) and then stimulated by adding SAC (0.01%). A test compound was dissolved in DMSO, and added to wells of the 96 well plate. The final DMSO concentration was adjusted to 0.25% in
30 all cultures, including the compound-free control. Human THP-1 cells were plated in wells,

primed by adding IFN γ (100 U/mL) for 22 h and stimulated by adding SAC (0.025%) in the presence of different concentrations of the test compound. Cell-free supernatants were taken 18 h later for measurement of cytokines. Cell viability was assessed using the bio-reduction of MTS. Cell survival was estimated by determining the ratio of the absorbance in compound-treated groups versus compound-free control.

The supernatant was assayed for the amount of IL-12p40, IL-12p70, or IL-10 by using a sandwich ELISA with anti-human antibodies, i.e., a Human IL-12 p40 ELISA kit from R&D Systems (Berkeley, CA), and a Human IL-12 p70 or IL-10 ELISA kit from Endogen (Cambridge, MA). Assays were based on the manufacturer's instructions.

Murine In Vitro Assay. Balb/c mice (Taconic, Germantown, NY) were immunized with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Ra (Difco, Detroit, MI). The splenocytes were harvested 5 days and prepared in RPMI medium supplemented with 10% FCS and antibiotics in a flat bottom 96-well plate with 1×10^6 cells/well. The splenocytes were then stimulated with a combination of IFN γ (60 ng/mL) and SAC (0.025%) [or LPS (20 μ g/mL)] in the presence of a test compound. Cell-free supernatants were taken 24 h later for the measurement of cytokines. The preparation of compound and the assessment of cell viability were carried out as described above. Mouse IL-12 p70, IL-10, IL-1 β , and TNF α were measured using ELISA kits from Endogen, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The biological activities of triazine compounds were tested on human PBMC or THP-1 cells. At least 240 compounds have IC₅₀ values of at least 5 μ M. Unexpectedly, some of the test compounds have IC₅₀ values as low as < 1 nM.

Example 14. In vivo assays

Treatment of adjuvant arthritis in rats: Adjuvant arthritis (AA) was induced in female Lewis rats by the intracutaneous injection (base of the tail) of 0.1 mL of a 10 mg/mL bacterial suspension made from ground, heat-killed *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H37Ra suspended in incomplete Freund's adjuvant. Rats were given a test compound orally once a day for 12 days, starting the day following the induction. The development of polyarthritis was monitored daily by macroscopic inspection and assignment of an arthritis index to each animal, during the critical period (days 10 to 25 post-immunization).

The intensity of polyarthritis was scored according to the following scheme: (a) Grade each paw from 0 to 3 based on erythema, swelling, and deformity of the joints: 0 for no erythema or swelling; 0.5 if swelling is detectable in at least one joint; 1 for mild swelling and erythema; 2 for swelling and erythema of both tarsus and carpus; and 3 for ankylosis and bony deformity.

5 Maximum score for all 4 paws was thus 12. (b) Grade for other parts of the body: for each ear, 0.5 for redness and another 0.5 if knots are present; 1 for connective tissue swelling (saddle nose); and 1 for the presence of knots or kinks in the tail. The highest possible arthritic index was 16.

10 Experiments with the AA model were repeated four times. Oral administration of triazine compounds described above (e.g., Compounds 1 and 2) reproducibly reduced the arthritic score and delayed the development of polyarthritis in a dose-dependent manner. The arthritis score used in this model was a reflection of the inflammatory state of the structures monitored and the results therefore show the ability of the test compound to provide relief for this aspect of the pathology.

15 *Treatment of Crohn's disease in dinitrobenzene sulfonic acid-induced inflammatory bowel syndrome model rats:* Wistar derived male or female rats weighing 200 ± 20 g and fasted for 24 hours were used. Distal colitis was induced by intra-colonic instillation of 2,4-dinitrobenzene sulfonic acid (DNBS, 25 mg in 0.5 mL ethanol 30%) after which air (2 mL) was gently injected through the cannula to ensure that the solution remained in the colon. A test
20 compound and/or vehicle was administered orally 24 and 2 hours before DNBS instillation and then daily for 5 days. One control group was similarly treated with vehicle alone while the other is treated with vehicle plus DNBS. The animals were sacrificed 24 hours after the final dose of test compound administration and each colon was removed and weighed. Colon-to-body weight ratio was then calculated for each animal according to the formula: $\text{Colon (g)/BW} \times 100$. The
25 "Net" increase in ratio of Vehicle-control + DNBS group relative to Vehicle-control group was used as a base for comparison with test substance treated groups and expressed as "% Deduction." Triazine compounds described above (e.g., Compounds 1 and 2) reproducibly had about 30% deduction. A 30% or more reduction in colon-to-body weight ratio, relative to the vehicle treated control group, was considered significant.

30 Rats treated with test substance orally showed a marked reduction in the inflammatory response. These experiments were repeated three times and the effects were reproducible.

Treatment of Crohn's disease in CD4⁺CD45Rb^{high} T cell-reconstituted SCID colitis

model mice: Spleen cells were prepared from normal female BALB/c mice. For cell purification, the following anti-mouse antibodies were used to label non-CD4⁺ T cells: B220 (RA3-6B2), CD11b (M1/70), and CD8α (53-6.72). All antibodies were obtained from BioSource (Camarillo, CA). M450 anti-rat IgG-coated magnetic beads (Dynal, Oslo, Norway) were used to bind the antibodies and negative selection was accomplished using an MPC-1 magnetic concentrator. The enriched CD4⁺ cells were then labeled for cell sorting with FITC-conjugated CD45RB (16A, Pharmingen, San Diego, CA) and PE-conjugated CD4 (CT-CD4, Caltag, Burlingame, CA). CD4⁺ CD45RB^{high} cells were operationally defined as the upper 40% of CD45Rb-staining CD4⁺ cells and sorted under sterile conditions by flow cytometry. Harvested cells were resuspended at 4×10⁶/mL in PBS and injected 100 μL intraperitoneally into female C.B-17 *SCID* mice. Triazine compounds described above (e.g., Compounds 1 and 2) and/or vehicle was orally administered once a day for 5 days per week, starting the day following the transfer. The transplanted *SCID* mice were weighed weekly and their clinical condition was monitored.

Colon tissue samples were fixed in 10% buffered formalin and embedded in paraffin. Sections (4 μm) collected from ascending, transverse, and descending colon were cut and stained with hematoxylin and eosin. The severity of colitis was determined based on histological examination of the distal colon sections, whereby the extent of colonic inflammation was graded on a scale of 0-3 in each of four criteria: crypt elongation, cell infiltration, depletion of goblet cells, and the number of crypt abscesses.

LP lymphocytes were isolated from freshly obtained colonic specimens. After removal of Peyer's patches, the colon was washed in Ca/Mg-free HBSS, cut into 0.5 cm pieces and incubated twice in HBSS containing EDTA (0.75mM), DTT (1 mM), and antibiotics (amphotericin 2.5 μg/mL, gentamicin 50 μg/mL from Sigma) at 37°C for 15 min. Next, the tissue was digested further in RPMI containing 0.5 mg/mL collagenase D, 0.01 mg/mL DNase I (Boehringer Mannheim), and antibiotics at 37°C. LP cells were then layered on a 40-100% Percoll gradient (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden), and lymphocyte-enriched populations were isolated from the cells at the 40-100% interface.

To measure cytokine production, 48-well plates were coated with 10 μg/mL murine anti-CD3ε antibody (145-2C11) in carbonate buffer (PH 9.6) overnight at 4°C. 5×10⁵ LP cells were

then cultured in 0.5ml of complete medium in precoated wells in the presence of 1 μ g/mL soluble anti-CD28 antibody (37.51). Purified antibodies were obtained from Pharmingen. Culture supernatants were removed after 48 h and assayed for cytokine production. Murine IFN γ was measured using an ELISA kit from Endogen (Cambridge, MA), according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Histological analysis showed that oral administration of triazine compounds described above (e.g., Compounds 1 and 2) reduced colonic inflammation as compared to vehicle control. The suppressive effect was dose-dependent with a substantial reduction at a dose of 10 mg/kg. The calculated colon-to-body weight ratio was consistent with the histological score, showing attenuation by treatment with the test compound. Furthermore, analysis of cytokines from LP cells in response to anti-CD3 antibody and anti-CD28 antibody demonstrated that LP cells from vehicle control produced an augmented level of IFN γ and treatment with test substance greatly diminished the production. These results clearly demonstrated the potential of the test substance in treatment of inflammatory bowel disease represented by Crohn's disease.

OTHER EMOBDDIMENTS

All of the features disclosed in this specification may be combined in any combination. Each feature disclosed in this specification may be replaced by an alternative feature serving the same, equivalent, or similar purpose. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is only an example of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

From the above description, one skilled in the art can easily ascertain the essential characteristics of the present invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions. For example, compounds structurally analogous a triazine compound described in the specification also can be made, screened for their inhibiting IL-12 activities, and used to practice this invention. Thus, other embodiments are also within the claims.